

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *EDINBURGH*, the 6th Day of *May* 1714.

Collected and Extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH,
Printed by the Relict of *Andrew Anderson*, Printer to the
Church of *Scotland*, M. DCC. XIV.

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND

Continued at EDINBURGH, the 6th Day of May 1714

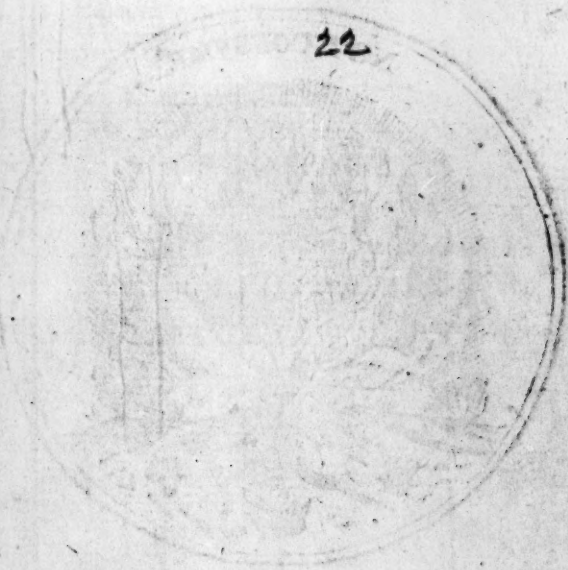
Collected and Entered from the Records of the Church

42

4

2

22



EDINBURGH

Printed by the Press of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, 1714

with
high
Whi
Hon
cord

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND;

Holden and begun at *EDINBURGH*, upon *Thursday* the
6th Day of *May* 1714, and ending the 17th Day of that
same Month and Year.

I.

ACT Appointing the *QUEEN's* Commission to his Grace,
JOHN Duke of ATHOL to be Recorded.

At *Edinburgh* 6th *May* 1714. Sess. I.



TH E General Assembly being
Conveened and Constituted,
there was produced to them
by his Grace *John Duke of*
Athol, Her Majesty's Commis-
sion, Sealed with the Seal ap-
pointed by the *Treaty of Union*
betwixt the two Kingdoms of
Scotland and *England*, to be
kept and used in *Scotland*, in
Place of the Great Seal of
Scotland, of the same Tenor
with former Commissions, Constituting him Her Majesty's
high Commissioner, and Representative in this Assembly;
Which Commission being publickly read, with all due
Honour and Respect, it is by Order of this Assembly, Re-
corded in their Books, *ad futuram Rei Memoriam*.

The QUEEN's most Gracious
LETTER
TO THE

General Assembly,

Presented to them the 6th Day of *May*, 1714:

ANNE R.

RIGHT Reverend and Well-beloved, We Greet you well: We are so well satisfied with the Accounts We have had of your prudent Conduct in the last Assembly, We very willingly Countenance by Our Authority your Meeting at this Time.

We have again made Choice of Our Right Trusty, and Right Entirely Beloved Cousin and Counsellour, *John Duke of Athol*, Keeper of Our Privy Seal for *Scotland*, to be Our Commissioner, and to Represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly; Believing that none could be more acceptable to you, than he, who has already more than once so well discharged that Trust, to Our Satisfaction.

We are very sensible how much the promoting of true Piety and Godliness, the great Ends of the Gospel, depends upon the due Execution of the Laws against Profaneness and Immorality; And therefore it will be always Our chief Care, to imploy such Persons as shall be faithful in executing the Laws, and in punishing all such Practices as are a Scandal to Our Holy Religion, and against which We have so often signified Our just Displeasure in Our Proclamations.

And as nothing can more effectually contribute to the Propagating of the Gospel, than the Example of a pious and learned Clergy, so We are resolved to use Our Endeavours, as We doubt not you will do yours, That vacant Churches be supplied with Pastors of an exemplary Life and Conversation.

We

We readily embrace this Opportunity, to renew the Assurances We have formerly given you of Our firm Purpose to maintain the Church of *Scotland*, as by Law established, the frequent Proofs you have given Us of your Loyalty and good Affection to Our Royal Person and Government, and of your Concern for the Protestant Succession in the House of *Hanover*, as by Law established, as they could not but be very acceptable to Us, so We doubt not of your continuing in the same dutiful Dispositions.

Our Concern for the Good and Peace of Our Subjects, makes Us take this Opportunity, earnestly to recommend to you Moderation and Unanimity in your present Meeting, and that at your Return to your respective Congregations, you would use your outmost Endeavours for quieting the Minds of the People, and to remove any Jealousies and Fears, which have, without any just Grounds, been suggested to them, by Persons of Factious and Turbulent Spirits, and to make them sensible of the present Blessings they enjoy, and of the bad Consequences any Kind of Disturbance would have to the present Tranquillity, as well as to their future Happiness; All which We expect from you as faithful Ministers of the Gospel of Peace, which you profess, and who wish Well to the present Establishment in Church and State: So We bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the 14th Day of April 1714, in the Thirteenth Year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

M A R.

Directed thus,
To Our Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of SCOTLAND.

I I I.

The General Assembly's Answer to Her Majesty's most Gracious Letter.

Edinburgh, 8th May 1714.

May it please Your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's continuing to give Your Protection and Countenance to our annual Assemblies, is a Favour,
B your,

your, which we do with all Thankfulness, acknowledge, and that our Conduct in the last Assembly hath been acceptable to Your Majesty, is what cannot but give us great Satisfaction, and oblige us to manage our selves, so, as we may not lose the Honour and Comfort of the good Opinion Your Majesty is pleased to have of us.

The Choice that Your Majesty hath again made of his Grace the Duke of *Athol*, Keeper of Your Privy Seal for *Scotland*, to represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly, is such a signal Mark of Your Majesty's Goodness to us, as we cannot but be very thankful for; His Fidelity to Your Majesty, the Prudence of his Conduct, when formerly cloathed with the high Character that he now again bears, the Experience we have had of his Favour to this Church, and his Zeal for suppressing all Profaneness and Immorality, where he hath Authority or Influence, cannot but make us have a high Value for him, and engage us to contribute what is in our Power to his being easie in the Discharge of that high Trust which Your Majesty hath honoured him with.

It is a great Comfort to us, That Your Majesty is pleased to give us renewed Assurances, That it will be Your Royal Care to promote true Piety and Godliness, by imploying such Persons as shall be faithful in duly executing the Laws against Profaneness and Immorality, without which, true Religion must greatly decay; And we humbly presume to perswade our selves that Your Majesty will in Your Royal Wisdom, find out such Means as shall be most proper for making Your religious Purposes more effectual than to our deep Regret they have hitherto been.

We should be very unworthy of the Character we bear of Ministers of CHRIST, if we should not, to the utmost of our Power, contribute to the supplying vacant Churches with pious and learned Men, especially while Your Majesty hath the Goodness to encourage us, by declaring Your Purpose to use Your Royal Endeavours for that End.

We chearfully embrace, and lay hold upon the Assurance Your Majesty gives us, of Your firm Purpose, to maintain Presbyterian Government in the Church of *Scotland*, as established by Law; and do presume to hope that these Things which are grievous to us, may come in due Time and Manner to be Redressed, and that all the vain Confidences of Enemies to our Constitution, shall at last be brought to nought.

It shall, Madam, be our constant Care not only to be steadily loyal our selves to Your Majesty, and fix'd in our Concern for the Protestant Succession in the House of *Hanover*; but it shall also be our Endeavour, that all who join in Communion with us, be duly possessed with Principles

ciples of true Loyalty and Affection to Your Majesty, as our only rightful Sovereign, and Firmness to the Protestant Succession in the Illustrious House of *Hanover*, upon both which, under GOD, the Security of our Religion and Liberties do intirely depend.

Moderation and Unanimity in our present Meeting, so earnestly recommended to Us by Your Majesty, are so much both our Duty and Interest, that we should be greatly wanting to our selves, and unanswerable to the Duty we owe to GOD, and the Regard we ought to have to what Your Majesty exhorts us to, should we not be seriously concerned, that nothing opposite to these be found among us.

However bold and unaccountable the Proceedings of such as are Enemies to Your Majesty's Government, and Friends of the Pretender, have of late been, and whatever Grounds they may have given for Fears and Jealousies amongst Your faithful Subjects, we beg Leave to assure Your Majesty, that as it has been, so it ever shall be our Care, to make all we have Influence upon, deeply sensible of the Blessings they enjoy under Your Majesty's Government, and of the bad Consequences, that any Thing tending to disturb the same, or endanger the Protestant Succession, would have to the present Tranquillity, as well as to their future Happiness.

That Your Majesty may be always highly favoured of GOD, for the Comfort of the Protestant Churches, and the Happiness of Your People, as to their religious and civil Concerns, and after a very long and happy Reign here upon Earth, be at last Crowned with Glory, Honour, and Immortality, leaving a peaceable Access to the Throne, to the Protestant Heirs of the Illustrious Family of *Hanover*, are and shall be the fervent and constant Prayers of

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most Faithful, most Obedient, and most Loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders, met in this
National Assembly of the Church of
SCOTLAND.*

*Signed in our Presence, in our Name,
and at our Appointment, by*

WILL. MITCHEL Moderator.

The General Assembly's Congratulatory Address to the Queen, upon Her Majesty's Recovery from Her late Indisposition.

Edinburgh, 8th May 1714.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE Your Majesty's most Faithful and most Loyal Subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, think it our Duty, to imbrace the first Opportunity in our Meeting of this General Assembly, to acquaint Your Majesty, That as Your late Indisposition did justly Grieve and Alarm us, we do now with the greatest Joy and Thankfulness to Almighty GOD, Congratulate Your Majesty's happy Recovery and perfect Health, of which we had the most agreeable Confirmation by Your Majesty's high Commissioner from the Throne.

It hath been, and ever shall be our fervent Prayer, That the infinitely good GOD may preserve Your Majesty in firm Health and Prosperity, and enable You to defeat the Designs of the Pretender, and all his Adherents, against Your Majesty's just Title, and that after a very long, happy, quiet, and peaceable Reign on Earth, You may be crowned with Glory and Immortality, and that the peaceable Possession of the Throne of these Nations, may be conveyed to a Protestant of the most Illustrious House of *Hanover*: Our firm Zeal for which, Your Majesty hath frequently declared to be acceptable to You.

*Signed in our Presence, in our Name,
and at our Appointment, by*

WILL. MITCHEL Moderator.

ACT for the better Execution of the Laws against Profaneness.

At Edinburgh, 8th May 1714. Sess. 3.

THE General Assembly finding, That albeit there hath been many excellent Acts both of Parliaments and General

General Assemblies made for suppressing of Immorality and Vice, and that the Queen's Majesty by Her Royal Proclamation dated 18th *August* 1708 Years, hath required the punctual Execution of the good Laws made for Encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and punishing of Vice and Immorality, and hath appointed Her said Proclamation to be read from the Pulpits, at such Times as shall be found needful by the Presbyteries and Synods of the Bounds; Yet all Manner of Immorality does abound through this Nation, to the Dishonour of GOD, and the Scandal of our Holy Religion, which threatens us with severe Strokes and Judgments; Do therefore appoint, That Her Majesty's Proclamation of the Date foresaid, with the Abbreviate of the Laws subjoined thereto; As also the 13th *Act* of the General Assembly Anno 1694. 7th and 11th *Acts* of the General Assemblies 1697. and 7th *Act* Gen. Assembly Anno 1699, be Re-printed in a small Volume, and that a Copy thereof be sent to every Parish and Kirk-Session, Presbytery, and Synod in *Scotland*, and do appoint the said Proclamation and Abbreviate to be read from the Pulpits of all the Churches in *Scotland*, upon the third LORD's Day of *August* next to come, before pronouncing of the Blessing; and the General Assembly recommends to Ministers on that Day to preach a Sermon suited to the Occasion, and do seriously exhort all the Members of this Church in their several Stations, to do what is required of them by the said *Acts*, and Her Majesties foresaid Proclamation: But because that the too frequent reading of the foresaid Proclamation and Abbreviate has been found inconvenient; Therefore the General Assembly leaves it to the several Synods and Presbyteries, after the first reading thereof, to give Orders about the Time of reading it afterward, as often, and at such Times, as they shall judge it needful and convenient; And ordains Synods and Presbyteries to record their Diligence in this Matter in their Books.

V I.

ACT for further regulating the Trials of Probationers.

At Edinburgh, 11. May 1714. Sess. 5.

THE General Assembly considering how necessary it is, especially at this Juncture, that Presbyteries be very Cautious in admitting Persons to Trials in Order to their being licensed to preach, and that they be exact in the said Trials; Do therefore seriously recommend to all the Professors of Divinity, and Presbyteries within

C

within

within this National Church, the strict Observation of the 5th Act of the General Assembly, held in the Year 1705. and 10th Act of the General Assembly held Anno 1711. concerning young Men to be entred on Trials, and other Acts of the General Assembly about Trying and Licensing Probationers; And further do recommend to Presbyteries, That they cause read to the young Men about to be Tried, the Engagements required by the said Act 10th Anno 1711. of such as are to be licensed, and that they take the said young Men their Promise, That they will subscribe to, and punctually observe the same, in Case the Presbytery shall see Cause to license them; and Presbyteries are desired to record this their Promise in their Books, and to cause all this to be done before any Part of the publick Trials be prescribed; And in the Case of Students their bringing Testimonials from their Professors, and from the Presbyteries wherein they have for the most Part resided, in the Terms of the foresaid Act 5th Anno 1705. and Act 10th 1711. in Order to their passing Trials in some other Presbytery, such Presbyteries to whom they shall come so recommended, are not to begin their Trials until they have resided at least Half an Year immediately before, in their Bounds. And lastly, The Visitors of the Presbytery Books, are appointed to report to their Synods, an Account of the Diligence of the several Presbyteries in this Matter, provided always, that what is herein contained, be not extended to Students having the *Irish* Language.

V I I.

ACT for discouraging unworthy Bursars.

At *Edinburgh*, 11th May, 1714. Sess. 5.

THE General Assembly considering, That Bursaries have been conferred upon some young Men, that are found very unworthy of any Encouragement from this Church; For Remedy whereof, the General Assembly recommends to Synods and Presbyteries, to make particular and exact Enquiry into the Education, Piety, Literature, Principles and Conversation of those whom they recommend to Bursaries, and that they recommend none of whom they have not Ground to believe that they will be useful, and who are firm to the Interests of this Church: And further, the General Assembly appoints such Presbyteries as shall discover any just Ground of Suspicion in young Men having these Bursaries, with Respect to these Things, to acquaint the General Assemblies of this Church

Church, or Commissions thereof: And also the Presbyteries, or Synods, whose Bursars they are, that if they be found unworthy, the Encouragement they enjoy, may be taken from them, and bestowed on Persons having the Qualifications required by the Acts of Assembly.

V I I I.

ACT for restoring and preserving Unity in this Church.

Edinburgh, 11th May, 1714. Sess. 5.

THE General Assembly taking into their Consideration, That by the 6th *Act* of the last *General Assembly*, 1713, It is strictly and seriously enjoined, That all the Ministers and Members of this Church, live in Love and Christian Communion together, and that Ministers study to strengthen one anothers Hands, by a close and conscientious Attendance on the Judicatures of this Church, notwithstanding of different Sentiments and Practices about the Oath of Abjuration, all being of the same Mind, in owning and adhering to that Pitch of Reformation, to which the LORD had happily raised this Church, and being deeply concerned, that Nothing contrary to these great and necessary Duties, should be found amongst the Ministers or Members of this Church at this Time especially, when our Circumstances call aloud upon us, to watch against any Appearances of Division; Doth therefore renew the Exhortations contained in the foresaid *Act*, seriously obtesting all, in the Bowels of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, whether Ministers or People, that they lay to Heart these important Duties, and that there be no distinguishing Courses taken contrary thereunto, on Occasion of celebrating the Holy Sacrament of the LORD's Supper, which ought to be the Bond of Love and Unity among Christians; And in Regard it appeareth unto this Assembly, from the Records of the late Commission, That Representations have been sent to them from Judicatures in the Bounds of *Drumfries*, concerning the Practices of some Brethren in that Synod, who are said to have separated from their Synod and Presbyteries, and to have baptized and married irregularly, and admitted Persons to the LORD's Supper without Certificates from their own Ministers, and to have gone out of their own Parishes, and preached and baptized without the Appointment of any Judicatory, and that both in vacant and planted Congregations; and these Practices, if true, being very disorderly, and contrary to the great and necessary Duties

enjoined in the said Act, and portending much Danger to this Church; Therefore the General Assembly being on the one Hand deeply concerned for the preventing of Schism, and preserving the Peace and Unity of this Church, and on the other Hand much inclined to shew all Tender-ness to these Brethren, so far as is consistent with the Safety of the Church, and their Fidelity to the Trust reposed in them, doth appoint Mr. *William Mitchel* one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh* their Moderator, Masters *William Carstares*, *William Wisheart*, *William Hamilton*, *John Flint*, and *James Hart*, Ministers there, Masters *James Hog* at *Carnock*, *William Moncrieff* at *Largo*, *John Schaw* at *Leith*, *Robert Livingston* at *Biggar*, *Patrick Cuming* at *Ormistoun*, *John Currie* at *Haddingtoun*, *John Stirling* Principal of the College of *Glasgow*, *John Mairhead* at *Camnethan*, *James Ramsay* at *Kelso*, and *Samuel Nairn* at *Errol*, the Right Honourable the Earl of *Buchan*, the Lord *Ormistoun*, the Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, *John Aird* Provost of *Glasgow*, Lieutenant Colonel *John Erskine* of *Carnock*, Lieutenant Colonel *John Blackadder*, Lieutenant Colonel *William Maxwell* of *Cardoness*, and *John Martin* of *Arress*, Ruling Elders, Thirteen of whom to be a *Quorum*, whereof Nine are always to be Ministers, to be a Committee to consider the Representations, or any others that may be offered to them, concerning those, or other Brethren that may follow the like Courses, to deal with them in Order to remove their Scruples, and reclaim them to their Duty, and for that End to meet at *Edinburgh* the fourth *Wednesday* of *June* next to come, with Power to choose their own Moderator and Clerk, and to Adjourn themselves from Time to Time, and that either at *Edinburgh*, or to *Glasgow*, or *Air*, as they shall see Cause; And the General Assembly appoints these Brethren to attend that Committee at that Diet, and any other to which the said Committee shall require them to come, and ordains Letters to be written, advertising them hereof, and requiring their Attendance; and also requiring them to keep within their own Parishes as to their ministerial Duties; and the Assembly impowers this Committee also to call any other Brethren that may be represented to follow the like disorderly Courses, and appoints them to report their Diligence to the Commission to be appointed by this Assembly: And the said Commission is hereby impowered from Time to Time, to give to the said Committee, Instructions and Directions as to their Procedure, and to cognosce, and finally determine in what concerns the said Affair.

IX.

I X.

ACT approving the Proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly, and particularly the Seasonable Warning concerning the Danger of Popery.

At Edinburgh, 14. May 1714. Sess. 8.

THE General Assembly having heard and considered the Report of these appointed to Revise the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly, and having had the said Register produced before them, did find, That the said Commission have proceeded according to their Commission and Instructions, and have been diligent and faithful in the Work committed to them, for which the Assembly gave them Thanks, and particularly for their Zeal against Popery, and seasonably impressing the Minds of the People with Loyalty to Her Majesty, Firmness to the Protestant Succession in the Illustrious Family of *Hanover*, and just Aversion to the Pretender, all fully expressed in their seasonable Warning.

X.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing divers Affairs referred to them.

At Edinburgh, 14. May 1714. Sess. 8.

THE General Assembly taking to their Consideration, That there are divers weighty Affairs which they cannot overtake; Do therefore nominate and appoint their Reverend Brethren, Masters, *William Mitchel* one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh*, their Moderator, *Patrick Simson* at *Renfrew*, *Thomas Warner* at *Balmaclellan*, *Patrick Warner* late Minister at *Irving*, *William Vetch* at *Drumfries*, *James Hog* at *Carnock*, *Samuel Charters* at *Inverkeithing*, *James Cuthbert* at *Culross*, *Ebenezer Erskin* at *Portmoak*, *John Cleghorn* at *Wemyss*, *John Drysdale* at *Kirkaldie*, *William Greenlees* at *Cyres*, *Thomas Burrel* at *Culter*, *William Brown* at *Kilmenie*, *Andrew Melvill* at *Monimmeal*, *James Haddow* Principal of the new College of *St. Andrews*, *William Moncrieff* at *Largo*, *William Hardie* at *St. Andrews*, *James Nairn* at *Forgan*, *Joseph Drew* Principal of the *Leonardin* College of *St. Andrews*, *George Clephan* at *Newtyle*, *William Stewart* at *Blairgowry*, *Robert Pitcairn* at *Ruthven*,

D

Ruthven, Samuel Johnston at Dundee, James Mar at Murehouse, Hugh Maxwell at Tellen, James Goodsir at Strathmartin, John Ferguson at Aberbrothick, Andrew Bruce at Innerkeilor, John Willison at Brichen, Robert Stephen at Craig, James Trail at Montrose, Henry Hamilton at Glenbervie, David Burn at Fetteresso, William Trail at Benholm, James Douglass at Aboynd, James Robertson at Glenmuick, Lewis Reid at Doors, David Anderson Professor of Divinity at Aberdeen, Thomas Blackwell Professor of Divinity there, Alexander Mitchel at Belhelvie, George Moir at Towie, Robert Gray at Cabrath, James Gordon at Bourtie, William Lesly at Chappel of Garrioch, Alexander Shand at Inch, James Brown at Aberdour, James Lesly at Crimond, Henry Lickly at old Meldrum, Alexander Gordon at Foveran, John Turing at Dumblette, Alexander Ross at Auchterless, Peter Darling at Boyndie, Alexander Irving at Cullen, John Gilchrist at Keith, James Murray at Grange, George Lindsay at Rothies, David Dalrymple at Dundurcas, Daniel Mackenzie at Kingussie, James Chapman at Cromdale, James Thomson at Elgin, William Dougald at Birnie, Charles Primrose at Forreth, John Crockat at Dallas, Robert Baillie at Inverness, Alexander Fraser at Croy, George Gordon at Cromarty, Thomas Chisholm at Kilmorack, Hugh Duff at Ferne, Daniel McGilgigen at Kilimure Wester, Robert Kirk at Dornoch, Walter Ross at Creich, William Innes at Thurso, James Oliphant at Wick, Alexander Grant at Southronaldshay, John Gibson at Evie, Richard Mein at Stronsay, Alexander Nisbet at Shapinsay, James Buchan at Northmaven, James Mill at Lerwick, John Chalmers at Campver in Zetland, William Carstairs Principal of the College of Edinburgh, William Wisheart at Edinburgh, John Flint there, John Wilson at North-Leith, John Schaw at South-Leith, James Walker at Canongate, William Hamilton Professor of Divinity in the College of Edinburgh, William Burnet at Falkirk, John Brand at Borrowstounness, John Lookup at Midcalder, James Houstoun at Bathgate, Robert Livingston at Biggar, John Sandilands at Dolphingtoun, Alexander Walker at Kirkurd, Stephen Paton at Newlands, Daniel Gilchrist at Lintoun, Patrick Cuming at Ormiston, David Walker at Temple, David Lindsay at Cockpen, John Currie at Haddingtoun, Robert Horsburgh at Saltprestoun, James Craig at Tetter, Robert Stark at Stentoun, Thomas Finlay at Prestounkirk, John Lauder at Eccles, Laurence Johnston at Dunse, John Dysart at Coldingham, John Pow at Lennel, Alexander Lauder at Mordingtoun, James Douglass at Stow, George Logan at Lawder, James Ramsay at Kelso, Robert Colvill at Yetholm, Robert Bell at Cavers, Robert Cunningham at Hawick, William Gusthart at Creallin, Robert Scot at Robertoun, William Bannatyne at Tarow, Robert Darling at Ewis, James Currie

Currie at Hoddam, William Aikman at Ruthwell, William Steel at Lochmaben, Robert Jarden at Cumbertries, Robert Paton at Drumfries, James Guthrie at Irongray, Alexander Robertson at Tinwald, Thomas Tod at Derisdeer, Mungo Gibson at Santquhare, Andrew Cameron at Kircudbright, William Boyd at Dalry, William Tod at Buttle, Robert Seton at Glassertoun, James Murdoch at Kirkoan, Robert Colwill at old Luce, Robert Fergusson at Calmonell, Andrew Roger at Galstoun, John Hunter at Air, Henry Osburn at Torbolton, Alexander Kennedy at Straitoun, James Lowrie at Kirk-michael, George Chalmers at Kilwinning, William Reid at Stevenstoun, Andrew Cuming at Largs, William Fleeming at Innerkip, Robert Miller at Pasley, Walter Menzies at Erskine, Robert Wylie at Hamiltoun, John Currie at old Monkland, Alexander Adamson at Dalziel, Thomas Linning at Lesmahago, Robert Black there, James Gartshore at Carmichael, John Stirling Principal of the College of Glasgow, James Clark at Glasgow, John Hamilton there, Andrew Tait at Carmunock, Robert Wallace at Badernock, John Anderson at Dumbartoun, Daniel Gilchrist at Luss, Daniel McLaurin at Kilsnan, James Gettie at Inverary, James Boes at Campbelltown, Daniel Campbell at Kilmore in Lorn, Archibald M'queen at Snizort, William Chalmers at Dunkeld, John Halket at Caputh, Alexander Chapman at Monedie, Samuel Nairn at Errol, David Schaw at Aberdalgie, Thomas Schaw at Scoon, Thomas Black at Perth, John Drummond at Crieff, William Hally at Muthil, Alexander Turcan at Glendovan, James Brisbane at Stirling, Henry Robin at Alva, Matthew Wallace at Kincardin, and James Robertson at Balquhadder, Ministers, John Duke of Athol, Charles Marquess of Tweeddale, John Earl of Rothes, David Earl of Buchan, James Earl of Findlater, William Earl of Kilmarnock, John Earl of Rutherglen, Patrick Earl of Marchmont, James Earl of Hyndfoord, David Earl of Glasgow, Archibald Earl of Ilay, William Lord Strathnaver, Alexander Lord Polwarth, William Lord Forbes, William Lord Ross, George Lord Rae, Lord Charles Ker, Sir Hugh Dalrymple of Northberwick Lord President of the Session, Sir John Maxwell of Nether-pollock, Adam Cockburn of Ormiston, Sir Gilbert Eliot of Minto, Sir Alexander Ogilvie of Forglan, Mr. James Hamilton of Pancaitland five of the Senators of the College of Justice, Mr. John Clark of Penricook one of the Barons of Her Majesty's Exchequer, Mr. John Campbell of Mamore, Mr. Francis Montgomerie of Giffan, Sir David Dalrymple of Hales, Mr. Arthur Forbes of Breda, Colonel John Erskin of Carnock, Mr. Robert Ramsay Provost of the old College of St. Andrews, John Cunningham Clerk of Anstruther, Oliver Barclay of Pit-tashop,

tachop, John Scrimzeor of Kirkcoun, David Maxwell Bail-
 lie in Dundee, Arthur Forbes of Echt, John Allerdice Pro-
 vost of Aberdeen, Mr. George Gordon Professor of the Oriental
 Languages in the College of old Aberdeen, Captain John
 Forbes of Boyndlie, John Ross of Arnage, John Fordice of
 Craigtocher, Brigadier Alexander Grant of that Ilk, Mr.
 James Brodie of Whitehill, Alexander Brodie of Letham,
 Hugh Ross of Kilravock, Sir Robert Monro of Foulis, Cap-
 tain Robert Monro younger thereof, George Warrander of
 Lochend Lord Provost of Edinburgh, William Hutchison
 Dean of Guild there, Colonel John Blackadder, Mr. David
 Mitchel Doctor of Medicine there, John Knox Chirurgion
 there, Mr. John Mitchel of Alderstoun, Walter Stewart of
 Pardiwan, William Baillie of Lamington, Sir William Men-
 zies of Gladstones, Robert Eliot Chirurgion in Edinburgh,
 Sir John Clark of Pennicook, Sir Robert Dalrymple of
 Castletoun, Charles Brown of Colstoun, Sir William Baird
 of Newbyth, Sir James Hall of Dunglass, Sir John Swinton
 of that Ilk, Sir John Pringle of Stitchel, Sir Gilbert Eliot
 of Stobbs, Archibald Douglass of Cavers, George Baillie of
 Jerviswood, John Hoppringle of Torsonce, Robert Rutherford
 of Fearnlie, Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, Robert
 Corbet late Provost of Drumfries, Colonel William Max-
 well of Cardoness, John Martin of Airies, Sir Charles Hay
 of Park, Sir Adam Whitefoord of Blairquhan, Mr. James
 Boswal of Affleck, John Cunningham of Enterkin, Sir Willi-
 am Cunningham of Cunningham-head, Sir Robert Pollock of that
 Ilk, Sir James Stewart of Kirkfield Advocate, Sir David
 Stewart of Cultness, Mr. Thomas Aikman of Bromloun,
 John Aird Provost of Glasgow, Mr. William Forbes Advo-
 cate Professor of Law in the College of Glasgow, Hugh
 Montgomery of Hartfield, Sir James Smollet of Bonhill
 Provost of Dumbarton, John Cunningham of Ballindalloch,
 Dr. William Stewart of Ambrismore, Sir James Campbell
 of Ardkinglass, John Campbell late Bailie in Edinburgh,
 Robert Robertson Provost of Perth, Sir James Campbell of
 Aberuchil, Mr. Alexander Abercromby of Tullibody Advo-
 cate, Colonel John Erskin Deputy Governour of Stirling
 Castle, Sir Walter Pringle, Mr. William Brodie, Mr. James
 Gellie, Mr. Walter Stewart, Mr. Gilbert Burnet Advocates,
 Dr. Alexander Dundas, Dr. James Forrest, Dr. John Rid-
 del Physicians, John Duncan late Dean of Guild of Edin-
 burgh, Mr. James Baillie Writer to the Signet, Mr. John
 Goodal Professor of Hebrew in the College of Edinburgh,
 and William Livingston late Deacon Conveener in Edin-
 burgh, Ruling Elders; To be Commissioners of the General
 Assembly, to the Effect after-mentioned, with Power to the
 said Persons, or their Quorum, which is hereby declared
 to be any Thirty one of the said Commissioners, whereof
 Twenty

Twenty one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly House at *Edinburgh*, the first Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, and afterward the second *Wednesday* of *August*, *November*, and *March*, and oftner when or where they shall think needful and convenient; with Power to the said Commissioners to choose their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers and authorizes their said Commission, or their *Quorum* above-mentioned, to cognosce, and finally determine as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this General Assembly, and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions to be given them by this Assembly, and to advert to the Interests of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church and present Establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable, Providing this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs or Processes before Presbyteries or Synods, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon this whole Church; And it is declared and appointed, That what shall be determined at one Diet of the said Commission with Relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in full Force, till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the General Assembly hereby renews the Instructions given by the last general Assembly One thousand seven hundred and thirteen, to their Commissioners, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners above-named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially herein insert. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged, to meddle in any other Matters, than what are hereby committed or referred to them as above-mentioned; and in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitutions of this Church, and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same; Declaring, that in and for all their Actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause: And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom ordered to be noticed, according to the seventeenth Act of the General Assembly One thousand seven hundred and six: And for the better securing of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and other

Presbyteries within twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for Meetings of the Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required all of them to give punctual Attendance on the Diets thereof; and Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have Four or more Members on the Commission, are to take Care, that at least Two of them attend each Diet of the Commission.

X I.

ACT for procuring the better Execution of former Acts against Popery, and for preventing the Growth thereof.

Edinburgh, 14. May, 1714. Seff. 8.

THE General Assembly for preventing the Growth of Popery, do enjoin Ministers and Members of Kirk-Sessions, to keep a watchful Eye over Papists, and deal with them for their Conviction, according to the 8th Act of the General Assembly, Anno 1707, and carefully to give in yearly to the Presbytery Lists of their Names and Designations, particularly of Popish Bishops, Priests, Jesuits, and other Traffickers, who go about to pervert People from the Truth, and of Apostates from the true Religion, with an Account of their Popish Meetings, Times and Places thereof, and Witnesses for proving the same, with the Names of Children under Popish Parents, Tutors, Curators, or Governours, and of the nearest Protestant Relations of such Children; and likewise of all Papists, who keep Schools, or teach any Science, Art, or Exercise, and also of Protestants who keep Popish Servants, and of all Papists who have succeeded to Lands or Heritages within their Bounds since the Year 1700, and of all other Contraveeners of the 3d Act of the Parliament held that Year, Intituled, *Act for preventing the Growth of Popery*; and Presbyteries are strictly enjoined to give in yearly upon the 21st Day of February, full Informations of these Things, subscribed by their Moderator and Clerk, to the Justices of the Peace in the several Shires within which the said Presbyteries do ly, and Papists reside or haunt, at their Quarter Sessions, or Meetings, and to the other Judges ordinary within the Bounds of the said Presbyteries, in Order to due Trial: And appoints Presbyteries to send another authentick Copy of the said Informations, subscribed as said is, to the Procurator or Agent for the Church, to be by them laid before the Lords, Justice General, or Justice Clerk, or Her Majesty's Advocate, or Solicitors; And

And the Assembly further appoints Presbyteries to give in also Copies of the said Informations to their Synods, according to former Acts of Assembly, and ordains Synods to call for the same from Presbyteries, and record their Diligence herein in their Books, that the General Assembly may see it, and give such Orders thereanent, as they shall judge proper.

X I I.

To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty,

The humble Address of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Edinburgh, 17. May, 1714. Sess. Ult.

May it please Your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's known Zeal for the true reformed Protestant Religion, and the renewed gracious Assurances we have from Your Majesty, to maintain and protect the Presbyterian Government of this Church as by Law established, do encourage us in Pursuance of those Christian Ends, recommended to us by Your most gracious Letter to this Assembly, to lay before Your Majesty in all humble Duty, these Things that so nearly concern the Interest of Religion, and of this Church.

It is our extreme Sorrow, that we find our selves obliged to represent to Your Majesty, the extraordinary Growth of Popery, and bold and insolent Carriage of Popish Bishops, Priests, Jesuits, and other Trafficking Papists in several Parts of this Nation, and that not only by secret Practices, but by avowed keeping of Mass Meetings, and Chappels, to which People do openly resort, by whose Artifices, several Hundreds have of late been perverted in a few Parishes, and that their Bishops do presume, at stated Times, to confirm great Multitudes, as in a Popish Country, to the great Dishonour of GOD, the Violation of Your Majesty's good Laws, the Increase of Disaffection to Your Royal Government, and the Grief and Disquiet of the Hearts of Your faithful Subjects; A more full and particular Account whereof, shall be sent to Your Majesty's Secretaries of State, to be laid before Your Majesty.

Tho' we own our selves both as Christians and as Ministers, indispenfibly bound to exercise Charity towards Protestants that differ from us, yet we cannot forbear to represent to Your Majesty, the Disorders of some of the

Episcopal Perswasion, who transgress Your Laws, by possessing themselves of Parish Churches, and introducing thereinto a Way of Worship never allowed in this Church, and manifestly contrary to the Act for securing Presbyterian Government, declared to be a Fundamental Act of the Union, of which we have a pregnant Instance, by the late violent and tumultuary Invasion of the Church of old *Aberdeen*; And however fond some of that Way appear to be of the Liturgy of the Church of *England*, they do either altogether omit the Prayers for Your Majesty, or make such Alterations of these Prayers, as render them equally applicable to the Pretender, as to Your Majesty: Nor can we omit this Opportunity to regret to Your Majesty, the Disturbance Mr. *David Anderson* Professor of Divinity in Your College of old *Aberdeen*, has met with in the peaceable Possession of his Office: On this Occasion also we are constrained in all Humility to acquaint Your Majesty, how much we are astonished and grieved, that some of late have had the Boldness to represent the Ministers of this Church, and those of our Communion, as disloyal and seditious; and we know no Reason why they thus express their Hatred and Malice against us; but because on all Occasions we assert and maintain Your Majesty's undoubted Title to the Crown, and use our utmost Endeavours to confirm the People in their Affection and Loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Government, their Zeal for the Protestant Succession in the House of *Hanover*, and their just Aversion to the Pretender, which we conceive to be the true Cause, that in a late Address from *Fife*, the Reasons of a Fast appointed by the Synod of that Province, which contain becoming Expressions of Duty and Loyalty to Your Majesty, and affectionate Zeal to the Protestant Succession, are so grossly misrepresented, and we cannot but observe, that those who in their Addresses do insinuate any Thing against us and our Constitution, make no Mention of the Protestant Succession in the House of *Hanover*, being equally, and for the same Reasons, disaffected to both.

We must also crave Leave deeply to regret the abounding of Error and Profaneness of all Sorts, notwithstanding the clear Light of the Gospel, and the many excellent Laws, and Your Majesty's Royal Proclamations to restrain them.

These being the Heads of our Grievances, wherein Your Majesty cannot but perceive, how much the Glory of GOD, the Purity of Religion, the Obedience to Your Laws, the Honour of Your Government, and the Peace and Welfare of this Nation are concerned; We do in all Humility most earnestly intreat, That Your Majesty will be pleased, in Your Royal Wisdom and Goodness, to appoint,

point, that the Laws against Popery and Profaneness, may be executed with all Vigour, and that all unwarrantable and illegal Practices and Attempts against our most Holy Religion, and present happy Establishment of this Church may be prevented, and punished according to Law.

That GOD may long preserve Your Majesty for the Defence of the true Protestant Religion, the Comfort of all the Churches of CHRIST, and the Welfare and Prosperity of this Church in particular, shall be the constant and fervent Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most Faithful, most Obedient, and most Loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders, met in this General Assembly of the Church of SCOTLAND.

Signed in our Presence, in our Name, and at our Appointment, by

WILL. MITCHEL Moderator.

X I I I.

ACT and Recommendation in Favour of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge.

Edinburgh, May, 17. 1714. Sess. Ult.

UPON the 10th Day of May current, there was produced to, and read in Presence of the General Assembly, a Representation and Petition, the Tenor whereof follows, *Viz. Unto the right Reverend and Honourable, the Moderator, and remanent Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, The Representation and Petition of the Committee of the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian Knowledge, humbly sheweth; That Her Majesty having been graciously pleased to erect a Society in Scotland for propagating Christian Knowledge, the General Assemblies of this Church have ever since the erecting of that Society, shewed a great Zeal to promote the pious Design thereof, not only by instructing their Commissions to keep a Correspondence with the Society, but also by recommending to Synods, Presbyteries, Ministers, Members of Sessions, and Persons*

of all Ranks, to contribute towards that Excellent Design, as is fully exprest in the several Acts made to that Purpose; these have been very encouraging to the Members of the Society, and their Committee to bestow Part of their Time and Pains to forward, as far as they could, so good a Work. It has been the Study of the Society, to follow the Directions laid down in Her Majesty's Letters Patent, and to avoid every Thing, that might justly be Ground of Offence to any serious Christian, and for the Satisfaction of Contributors, have been, and still are willing to consider any Proposals that may be made to them, for furthering the Design of the Society, so far as the Annualrent of the Stock will allow, agreeable to Her Majesty's Letters Patent; and whatever has been the secret Whispers, groundless and false Reports of some, who are either Enemies to this promising Undertaking, or ignorant of this pious Design, and unwilling to give any Assistance thereto; yet the Society's Management has been such, that they are always ready to expose it to any Person who desires to understand the same; for they keep their Books and Accounts distinct and open, that any Contributor who pleases, may have Access thereto; and this has been not only published in the printed News-papers, but a publick Intimation thereof has been given by the Committee of the Society, and the same was sent to the several Synods and Presbyteries, by Order of the last Assembly, to be read from all the Pulpits in *Scotland*. The Society cannot but bless GOD for the great Zeal and Charity, that many Presbyteries, Ministers, Elders, and other well disposed Persons have shewed in this Matter; for by their Liberality, the Society's Stock laid out preceeding the 7th of *January* last, does amount to the Sum of Five thousand eighty seven Pound *Sterling*, upon the Interest of which, there are maintained, one who officiates as Minister and Schoolmaster in *Hirta* alias *St. Kilda*, and Schoolmasters at *Snizort* in the Isle of *Skye*, *Glenelg* in the remote Highlands, *Abertarph* in the Shire of *Inverness*, *Lairg*, and *Kildonan* in *Southerland*, *Duirness* in *Strathnaver*, *Harray* in the Continent, and *Shappinshay* in the North Isles of *Orkney*, *Walls* in *Zetland*, *Tomnamwillian* in the Duke of *Gordon's* Country, *Tombelly* and *Castletoun* in *Aberdeen* Shire, *Lochearnshae*, *Glenlednoch*, and *Glenarchnae* in *Perth* Shire, and one in *Gairloch* in the Bounds of the Synod of *Ross*, in all seventeen Schools; and some of the Masters have Allowance for maintaining Assistants where their Schools are numerous, and there is a considerable Sum given out yearly, for Books to these Schools, and transporting thereof to them, and each Scholar taught gratis at the Society's Schools, are allowed a new Bible, the *Confession of Faith*, *Larger* and *Shorter Catechisms*, with *Vincent* or *Hall's Exposition*

position of the Catechism, and Gathry's Trial of a saving Interest in CHRIST, so soon as it is attested that they are in Case to read the Bible distinctly. There are comfortable Accounts of the Usefulness of these Schools, and of their great Success and Number of the Scholars, for there are 118 Scholars at one School, at others 70, 67, 50, 40, 39, 36, &c. where they have for any Time been settled, and many of the Scholars can read the Bible pointedly, repeat the *Shorter Catechism* in the Church, are learning to write, and to understand Arithmetick, and to sing the common Tunes used in the Churches; and such Care is taken in the Choice of Masters, as to their Piety, Learning, Prudence, and other Qualifications, that in remote Places where Ministers have large Parishes, or more Kirks than one, they by the Minister's Allowance and Direction, do help to supply his Absence, by convening the Scholars, and such others as are pleased to attend on the LORD's Day, and reading the Holy Scriptures to them, and a Sermon out of a Book, praying, singing Psalms in the Forenoon, and Catechizing in the Afternoon, and by the Example of the Scholars, there is an Emulation begot in these of riper Years, whereas before, the LORD's Day was little regarded in such Places, when the Ministers were absent. But though the Society must acknowledge the great and laudable Zeal of some Persons of Quality, Gentlemen, Ministers, and other well disposed Persons, particularly in *Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Drumfries*, and other Places, who have contributed liberally for advancing the Christian and Noble Design of Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent, and that the Success of the Schools already erected, hath been very encouraging, yet we must beg Leave again to represent, That some Presbyteries and Ministers have never to this Day made any Return of their having intimated the Acts of Assembly that concerned the Society, although the same were timeously sent to them; So that in some Places the pious Design of the said Society is wholly concealed and unknown, and People have not had an Opportunity to contribute towards so Christian and excellent a Work, who would cordially do it. Other Ministers have satisfied themselves in that they have contributed or subscribed for their own Part, tho' they have used little or no Diligence to promote Contributions among their People, apprehending that their Endeavours should be without Success; whereas it is certain, that some who have been under these Apprehensions before they attempted to collect, have after their setting about the Work, by reading the foresaid Papers sent to them, and giving suitable Exhortations to their People, found them Chearful and Liberal in their Contributions, beyond their Expectations; for they have found even Children and Servants shew a

Zeal to and Concern for this pious Undertaking, and desirous to forward the same, and that the small Mites thrown in by the poorer Sort, when laid together, have amounted to a considerable Sum : Other Ministers have extended their Endeavours no further, than by making a Collection at the Church Doors (as in the Case of common Charity) and in such Parishes, what has been collected, has come to a very small Account ; whereas others who have been at the Pains to go from House to House to obtain the Contribution of each particular Person, as is prescribed by the Acts of Assembly, have got together very considerable Sums, and People have declared, That their Hearts never gave them so much to any Collection as to this, which is for such an excellent and glorious Design ; And there are some who tho' they have collected, yet delay to transmit the Money to the Society's Treasurer, upon Pretence either of waiting till they get more, or that they want an Account how the Money already raised is imployed ; (notwithstanding of the distinct Accounts transmitted to them of the Society's Progress from Time to Time) If others had been thus backward and careless, this Christian and pious Design, proposed after maturest Deliberation, by the Commission of the General Assembly, and authorized by Royal Authority, had been frustrated, and such Delays and Neglect of what is so seriously recommended by Her Majesty, and the General Assembly, does greatly obstruct the Progress of the Society ; for the Money must first come to their Hands, and then be laid out on Interest, and the Interest be raised before they can supply the Schools ; seeing by the Letters Patent, it is only the Interest of their Stock, that can be imployed for that End : The Society is not willing at this Time, to condescend upon particular Synods, Presbyteries, and Parishes thus deficient, or Persons who have not paid in the Money they subscribed for, or collected from others, but is rather desirous that such Deficients have some longer Time allowed them to exoner their Consciences in such an important Trust, according to former Acts of the General Assembly, Letters from their Commissions, and from the Society and their Committees ; And for the further Satisfaction of the Assembly, the Committee is willing to meet with such as shall be named by them, and to lay the Society's Accompts and Books before them. *May it therefore please this Venerable Assembly to consider the Premises, and to cause read the 5th Act of the late General Assembly, and renew the Recommendations and Orders therein contained in all Points, and further to recommend to Presbyteries to look out for fit Persons duly qualified in the Terms of Her Majesty's Letters Patent, who are willing to serve the Society, and send an Account*

count of them with Certificates in their Favours to the Society or their Committee. This at the Appointment, and in Name of the said Committee, is subscribed by *Jo. Duncan* Pr. Com. *Jo. Dundas* Sec. Soc. Which Representation and Petition being considered by the General Assembly, with the Deliverance of the Committee of Bills thereupon, they caused read the 5th Act of the late General Assembly Anno 1713, and did, and hereby do renew the Recommendations and Injunctions therein contained in all Points; and further recommend to Presbyteries to look out for Persons duly qualified in the Terms of Her Majesty's Letters Patent, who are willing to serve the Society, and to send an Account of them with Certificates in their Favours to the Society or their Committee: And the General Assembly did give the said Society their hearty Thanks for their great Care and Diligence in carrying on the excellent Design of Her Majesty's Letters Patent for propagating Christian Knowledge; and several Members of the Society present in the Assembly, having desired that they would appoint a Committee of their Number to meet with the Committee of the Society, to discourse with them, and by joint Counsel to advise what further may be proposed to the General Assembly, to be done for the Benefit of the said Society, and by the Society, for fully satisfying not only the Members of this Assembly, but all others as to the Exactness and Fairness of their Management: The General Assembly appointed their Committee already named, being some out of the several Synods, for revising the Commission Book, when they have done with the said Book, to meet with the Committee of the Society for the Ends foresaid, and report.

And this Day the Committee of the General Assembly appointed to meet with the Committee of the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian Knowledge, reported that they had discoursed with that Committee at Length, and had all their Books laid before them, and were fully satisfied of the Groundlessness of all the Objections that were moved against them, and they saw that the Society can give clear and satisfying Documents of all the Particulars contained in their Representation to this Assembly; and therefore the Committee give it as their Opinion, That the Nature and Constitution of that Society, is such, that it is as well secured against the Danger of future Events, as any Society can be, and they thought that the Assembly should empower their Commission to appoint publick Intimations in all the Congregations of this Church, of an additional Representation of the further Progress and Success of the Society, which they are preparing. The General Assembly having heard and considered

ed the said Report, they were well satisfied therewith, and approved of their Committee's Opinion, and did empower their Commission to the Effect above-mentioned.

X I V.

ACT appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, 17 May 1714. Sess. Ult.

THE next General Assembly of this Church, is appointed to be held at *Edinburgh* the Fourth Day of *May* next to come, in the Year of our LORD, One thousand seven hundred and fifteen Years.

This Assembly was concluded with Prayer, Singing the 133 Psalm, and pronouncing of the Blessing.

Collected and Extracted from the Registers of the General Assembly, by

JO. DUNDAS, Cls. Eccl. Scot.

A

A T A B L E

*Of the printed ACTS of the
General Assembly, held in the
Year 1714.*

		Page.
I.	A CT appointing the Queen's Commission to his Grace <i>John Duke of Athol</i> , to be recorded.	3
II.	The Queen's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly.	4
III.	The General Assembly's Answer to Her Majesty's most gracious Letter.	5
IV.	The General Assembly's congratulatory Address to the Queen, upon Her Majesty's Recovery from Her late Indisposition.	8
V.	Act for the better Execution of the Laws against Profaneness.	8
VI.	Act for further regulating the Trial of Probationers.	9
VII.	Act for discouraging unworthy Bursars.	10
VIII.	Act for restoring and preserving Unity in this Church.	11
IX.	Act approving the Proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly, and particularly the seasonable Warning concerning the Danger of Popery.	12
X.	Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing divers Affairs referred to them.	13
XI.	Act for procuring the better Execution of former Acts against Popery, and for preventing the Growth thereof.	18
XII.	The humble Address of the General Assembly of the Church of <i>Scotland</i> to the Queen.	19
XIII.	Act and Recommendation in Favours of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge;	21
XIV.	Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.	26

INDEX

Of the Acts, &c. of the General Assembly, held in the Year 1714, which are not Printed.

After Sermon by Mr. *William Wisbeart* Moderator of the preceeding Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did convene, and Mr. *William Mitchel* was chosen Moderator, May 6. 1714. Session. 1st.

The Queen's Commission to *John Duke of Athol* recorded. *Ibidem.*

His Grace Her Majesty's Commissioner's Speech to the General Assembly, at opening thereof. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech to Her Majesty's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

Committee for drawing an Answer to Her Majesty's most gracious Letter, and a congratulatory Address upon Her Recovery. *Ibid.*

Committee appointed for Overtures, &c. *Ibid.*

Committee appointed for Bills, References and Appeals. *Ibid.*

Committee for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring Absents, naming Ministers to preach before His Grace Her Majesty's Commissioner, and taking up Lists of Probationers and Students in Divinity. *Ibid.*

The Commission Book and Synod Books ordered to be produced next Diet to be revised. *Ibid.*

Appointment of a Diet of the General Assembly for solemn Prayer. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer, May 7th 1714. Sess. 2.

Nomination of some to preach before Her Majesty's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

Some Commissions produced, and Additions made to Committees, May 8. 1714. Sess. 3.

An Answer to Her Majesty's gracious Letter unanimously approved. *Ibid.*

A congratulatory Address to the Queen upon Her Majesty's Recovery from Her Indisposition unanimously approved. *Ibid.*

A Committee of some from the several Synods, for revising and examining the Register of the Commission of the late General Assembly, and for auditing the Procurator and Agents for the Church their Accompts, and considering what further concerns the Church's publick Money. *Ibid.*

Committees appointed for revising and examining the Registers of the Synods of *Fife, Angus and Merns, Aberdeen, Murray, Ross and Southerland, Orkney, Lothian and Tweeddale,*

I N D E X.

Tweddale, Mers and Tiviotdale, Drumfreis, Galloway, Glasgow and Air, Argyle, Perth and Stirling, and these Committees ordered to observe the Directions given in the 4th Act of the late General Assembly. Ibid.

Report concerning Commissions to Members of this Assembly, with an Act sustaining these Commissions, and appointing that Synods and Presbyteries be written to, to take Care that Commissions in Time coming be agreeable to the Acts of the General Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed for receiving the Instructions of Presbyteries to their Commissioners in this Assembly, and any Overtures proposed by Presbyteries, and to Class the same, and to consider the State of the Church in the North, the Highlands and Islands, and Growth of Popery, &c. *Ibid.*

Commissioners from Presbyteries ordered to give in to the Clerks, any Returns they have from their Synods and Presbyteries, to the Letters written to them by Order of the late General Assembly, or Commission thereof, that the same may be recorded, with a Recommendation to Deficients yet to take these Letters under Consideration, and proceed therein according to the Acts of Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Procurator and Agents for the Church, their Report of their Diligence in securing of the Viscountess of Kenmuir's Mortification, with a Reference to the Commission concerning the same. *Ibid.*

Appointment for writing Letters to be sent to the Secretary, and Treasurer, with the Assembly's Answer to the Queen's Letter, and the Assemblies humble Desire of the Commissioner, to transmit the said Answer and Address to Her Majesty, which his Grace undertook to do. *Ibid.*

An Act concerning Probationers, and another for discouraging unworthy Bursars, allowed a first Reading, 10 May 1714 Sess. 4.

A Resolve to make an humble Representation to Her Majesty of the Grievances this Church lies under, from the Growth of Popery, Insolence of Papists, and the illegal Incroachments and Intrusions of the Episcopal Ministers and their Adherents, and a Committee named for drawing the same. *Ibid.*

Committee for considering Representations from the South and West, concerning some Ministers who are alleged guilty of divisive Practices. *Ibid.*

A Representation and Petition of the Committee of the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge read, and a Committee of some from the several Synods appointed to confer with the Committee of the Society, about the Society's Affairs. *Ibid.*

I N D E X.

The Members of this Assembly, ordered to meet by their several Synods, and name Persons to be on a Committee, for naming the Members of a Commission to be appointed by this Assembly, and for preparing Draughts of their Commission and Instructions. *Ibid.*

Some more Commissions produced, and Additions to Committees, and Ministers named to preach before the Commissioner, &c. May 11. 1714. Sess. 5.

Upon a Petition of the Presbyteries in *Orkney*, the Recommendations of the late General Assembly for making up the Charges of Mr. *Thomas Baikie*, Mr. *James Sands*, Mr. *John Keith*, and Mr. *George Oswald*, in the criminal Processes against them renewed, and Letters of Thanks ordered to be written to the Earl of *Mortoun*, and Master *Robert Douglass* his Brother, for their kind Countenance to the Ministers in *Orkney*; and likewise a Recommendation to the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, in Favours of *Orkney*. *Ibid.*

The Recommendation of the late General Assembly in Favours of *John Fraser* for Charity, renewed, as to Deficients, &c. *Ibid.*

Act stating the Expences of the Process for settling the Stipend of the vacant Parish of *Kilmore* in *Skye*, on the Equivalent due to the Church. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission of a Petition for the Synod of *Ross*, craving that Probationers might be sent thither, &c. *Ibid.*

List of Persons in the several Synods brought in, and appointed as a Committee for drawing the Commission to be given by this Assembly, naming the Persons to be thereon, and preparing their Instructions. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Fife*, *Angus* and *Merns* examined, and attested. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission, to cognosce and determine in a Process for transporting Mr. *Alexander Mitchel* from *Belhelvie* to *Aberdeen*, May 12. 1714. Sess. 6.

A Call from the *Scots* Congregation at *Rotterdam* to Mr. *Robert Baillie* Minister at *Inverness*, to be their Minister, considered, and he continued in his Ministry at *Inverness*.

Act appointing a Letter to be written to the Lords or Magistrates of *Rotterdam*, and another to the Minister and Consistory of the *Scots* Congregation there, intimating the Reasons why Mr. *Robert Baillie* could not now be loosed from *Inverness*, but that the Commission are impowered to cognosce upon any other Process that shall be brought before them, for planting that Congregation. *Ibid.*

The

I N D E X.

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission Book brought in, both with Relation to the Commission's Proceedings, and the Procurator and Agents Accompts, and the same being read, were ordered to ly on the Table till another Diet, *May 13. Sess. 7.*

A Reference to the Committee for Overtures, to consider the Report anent the Commission Book, with some Overtures about the publick Money. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Aberdeen, Ross, Orkney, Lothian and Tweeddale*, examined and attested, with this Advice to the Synod of *Aberdeen*, that their Registers should bear an Account of their Diligence in observing the Acts of the General Assembly concerning the Contribution for promoting Christian Knowledge, obtaining a legal School in every Parish, and for suppressing of Popery, and disapproving the Synod of *Orkney* in their advising the Presbytery of *Kirkwall* to repone *Oliver Turk*, an excommunicate Person against that Sentence, upon his giving Satisfaction to the Minister of his Parish, because the Presbytery themselves ought to have been satisfied as to his Repentance, before they could orderly repone him. *Ibid.*

The Commission Book examined and attested according to the 8th Act General Assembly 1706, and the Members of the Commission commended for their Faithfulness and Diligence, *May 14. 1714. Sess. 8.*

A Commission appointed by this Assembly, and their Powers and Instructions unanimously approved. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission of an Appeal from the Synod of *Galloway*, in a competing Process betwixt some of the Heretors and others of the Parish of *Parton*, with Relation to the planting their vacant Kirk, some being for Mr. *James Rouan*, and others for Mr. *John Vetch*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission of an Appeal from the Synod of *Angus and Merns*, in a Process concerning the Settlement of Mr. *John Dougal* at *Arbuthnot*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to cognosce, and finally determine in all References or Appeals that may be brought before them from Presbyteries or Synods about planting the Vacancies in the Churches of *Edinburgh*. *Ibid.*

Recommendation for Charity in Favours of *Mathilda Adams* to the Ministers, Sessions, Presbyteries and Synod of the Bounds where she resides. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission of a Petition for Mr. *Daniel McLaurin*, craving to be declared transportable, because of Grievances at *Kilfinan*. *Ibid.*

An Address to the Queen with Relation to Grievances from the Growth of Popery, Incroachments of the Episcopal

I N D E X.

piscopal Party, and other Things approven unanimously, with a Reference to the Commission to draw up a particular Condescendence thereof, to be sent to the Secretary, in Order to be laid before Her Majesty. *Ibid.*

Act confirming a Sentence of the Synod of *Lothian*, appointing Mr. *James Webster*, or any who will join with him, in charging Mr. *John Simson* Professor of Divinity at *Glasgow* with Error, to Table their Complaint before the Presbytery where he lives, and allowing any Person or Persons that are willing to assist Mr. *Webster* in that Pursuit, in Point of Form, to give him their Assistance, and declaring that by their so doing, they shall not be counted Libellers, unless they engage in the Cause. *Item*, Some Protestations in this Affair taken by Mr. *Webster*, and Mr. *John Stirling*. *Ibid.*

The Bynod Books of *Murray*, *Mers* and *Tiviotdale*, *Drumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, *Argyle*, and *Perth* and *Stirling*, examined and attested, with this Exception, That as to *Murray*, this Attestation is not to be understood to comprehend these Things contained, Pages 318, 319, of their Book, anent settling *Knockando*, which this Assembly does not approve of. 2. With a Recommendation to the Synod of *Mers*, to take Care their Register be more accurately written. 3. To the Synod of *Drumfries* to cause fill up their Book, and not to neglect privy Censures. 4. To the Synod of *Argyle*, That they meet twice in the Year, and that they take Care their Committees do not exceed the Powers given them. And 5. With a Disapprobation of the Synod of *Perth*'s appointing Mr. *Thomas Menzies* to be ordained Minister of *Dull*, betwixt and 15 of *May*, when there was an Appeal to the Assembly that met upon the last Day of *April* that Year. *Ibid.*

Remit to the Synod of *Orkney*, to consider the Desire of the Presbytery of *Zetland*, with Relation to their Disjunction therefrom, and to report next Assembly. 2. Reference to the Commission to send two Probationers to *Zetland*. 3. An Appointment to write Letters of Thanks to the Earl of *Mortoun*, and Master *Robert Douglass* his Brother, for their kind Countenance to the Ministers there. 4. A Recommendation to the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, for more Schools and Books to that Country. 5. A former Recommendation for a voluntary Contribution through *Scotland* for building a Bridge over the Water of *Strom*, renewed, and the Money ordered to be sent in to *Charles Mitchel* Writer in *Edinburgh*, Collector thereof. 6. The Commission is empowered to give all necessary Assistance to the Presby-

tery

I N D E X.

tery of *Zetland*, and Brethren therein, according to former Acts of Assembly in their Favours, *May 17. 1714. Sess. 10. et ult.*

Act approving the Accompts of the Procurator for the Church, for one full Year of the Queen's Grant to the Church, being one Quarter of the Year 1713, and three Quarters of the Year 1714, and discharging him and his Cautioner thereof, and appointing that the Ballance of 32 *lib.* 11 *sh.* 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ *d.* *Sterling* due to him, be stated as the first Article of his next Accompts. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accompts of *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church, from 1st *May* 1713, till 1st *May* 1714, and appointing the Ballance thereof to be paid to him. *Ibid.*

Act settling the Order of Payment of some of the Church's Debts, *Viz.* 1. The Salaries to the Procurator, Clerks, Agents and Officers. 2. Mr. *Robert Kirk* Probationer 100 *lib.* Mr. *Alexander Fraser* 80 *lib.* Mr. *Walter Ross* 100 *lib.* Scots, to *George Mosman's* Representatives 23 *lib.* 3 *sh.* 10 *d.* *Sterling*, Mr. *David Anderson* 60 *lib.* *Sterling*, Mr. *John Currie* 50 *lib.* *Sterling*, Mr. *John Logan* 50 *lib.* *Sterling*, Synod of *Ross* 16 *lib.* 13 *sh.* 4 *d.* *Sterling*, Extending the Debts above-mentioned to 522 *lib.* 16 *sh.* 6 *d.* *Sterling.* Item, a Warrant to the Procurator after Payment of the foresaid Debts, to advance Money for bringing in the Equivalent, with a Reference to the Commission to consider other Claims on the Church's Publick Money, and some Overtures for further directing the right Application of the foresaid Money. *Ibid.*

Appointment to prosecute the Rabblers at *Aberdeen*, and Warrant to depurse in that Affair. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission of an Appeal by *Andrew Blain*, from the Synod of *Galloway* to this Assembly, in a Process for Scandal. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to receive any References and Appeals, with Relation to a Process against Mr. *James Campbell* at *Legerwood*, and to give Assistance in the Settlement of that Parish. *Ibid.*

Mr. *James Lesly* Probationer sent to the Presbyteries of *Abernethy* and *Inverness.* *Ibid.*

List of Probationers and Students of Divinity brought in, and that of Probationers read, and both ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission of every Thing depending before the last Commission, and not finally discussed by them. *Ibid.*

I N D E X.

Intimation that the Presbytery of *Edinburgh* had declared Mr. *Robert Tule's* Licence null, because of his Errors. *Ibid.*

Protestation the Synod of *Angus* and *Merns* against Mr. *James Arbuthnot*, for not insisting in his Appeal. *Ibid.*

Recommendation in Favours of Mr. *David Lewis* Minister of the Gospel in *Newcastle*, for a Collection. *Ibid.*

Intimation of the Diet of the Commission. *Ibid.*

Committee for Revising the Minutes of this Assembly, and giving Orders about Printing the Publick Acts thereof. *Ibid.*

The Minutes of the last *Sederunt* of the Assembly read over. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech at closing the General Assembly, to the Members, and to his Grace Her Majesty's high Commissioner. *Ibid.*

His Grace Her Majesty's high Commissioner's Speech to the General Assembly, after they had gone through their whole Work. *Ibidem.*

F I N I S.

